



Donald O. Nelson

STS3(SS) G 66-69

July 14, 1943 – November 1, 2014

Eternal Patrol Nov 1, 2014

Qualified SS onboard 18 December 1967

Born July 14, 1943 in Ypsilanti Michigan

Died November 1st 2014 in Westcliffe Colorado - Cause of death "COPD"

Parents William L. and Lucille H. Nelson

William died August 1996. Lucille died September 2021.

Sister Sandra "Sandy" (Nelson) Gilbert Survives

Don was a sailor, a truck driver, and a general contractor/laborer. He was known for his love of adventure, travel, the great outdoors, and building things with his hands. Don had 2 daughters Kortnee (Nelson) Bagley {husband William "Bill"} born 01/25/1975 and Sarah (Nelson) VanHaaren {husband James} born 07/01/1990; 8 grandchildren Maureen (John) Westover, Sean Merillat, Darbi Merillat, Elijah Merillat, Hailey VanHaaren, James VanHaaren Jr., Kali Wiseman, Mia VanHaaren.

NELSON, Donald O., 915 71 20, SA

NAME/SERVICE NO./RATE



WIFE'S NAME Not Married

CHILDREN'S NAMES: 1. _____ 5. _____
2. _____ 6. _____
3. _____ 7. _____
4. _____ 8. _____

HOME STATE & TOWN Michigan Traverse City
(State) (Town)

PREVIOUS DUTY STATIONS Grate Lakes + Sub
School

SPECIAL INTERESTS: _____

PROTOTYPE/MISSILE TRG. _____

EXPIRATION ACTIVE OBL SERVICE Jan 7, 1970 ADBD Jan 7, 1966

RELIGION Prot SERVICE NUMBER 915 2120 TOTAL ACTIVE SERVICE 9 1/2 mo

DEPT/DIV ASSIGNMENT Deck Div REPORTING DATE June 5, 1966

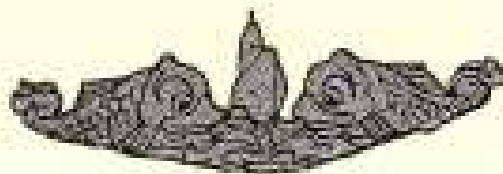
SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS: _____ CREW ASSIGNMENT _____

DATE OF BIRTH July 14, 43 WIFE'S LOCAL ADDRESS: _____

PLACE OF BIRTH Bellaire Mich



SUBMARINE QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATE



DONALD OPPIS NELSON

EXAMINER

Having successfully completed the rigorous professional requirements for qualification in submarines, having gained a thorough knowledge of submarine construction and operation, having demonstrated his reliability under stress, and having my full confidence and trust, I hereby certify that he is

Qualified in Submarines

Given this 18TH day of December 19 67

On Board U.S.S. HENRY J. HATHORN (SSN665)



H. H. WEEKS, COMMANDER, U. S. NAVY

COMMANDING OFFICER



CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

To all who shall see these presents, greeting:

Know Ye, that by authority vested in me and reposing special trust and confidence in the patriotism, valor, fidelity and abilities of

DONALD OTTIS NELSON

I do hereby appoint you to the rate of

SONAR TECHNICIAN (SUBMARINE) THIRD CLASS

in the

UNITED STATES NAVY

to rank as such from the sixteenth day of November, nineteen hundred and sixty-eight

TO THE APPOINTEE

Your appointment as a petty officer in the United States Navy makes you heir to a long and proud tradition of Naval leadership. By accepting this appointment, you are charged with demonstrating those standards of performance, moral courage, and dedication to the Navy and the Nation which may serve as an enviable example to your fellow Navy men and women.

Your desire to excel and to guide others must be boundless; your appearance must be a model for others and your performance must be a continual reflection of your sincerity, attention to duty, and moral responsibility. By exhibiting unfailing trust and obedience toward superiors, cooperation and loyalty to your peers, and understanding and strength to your subordinates, you will contribute greatly to the effectiveness and good name of the United States Navy.

Given under my hand at sea

this sixteenth day of November in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and sixty-eight.


R. H. White, CDR, USN

Commanding Officer

USS HENRY L. STIMSON (SSBN595)

USS HENRY L STIMSON (SSBN 655)
CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

20 AUGUST 1966

Mr. and Mrs. William L. Nelson
RR #4, Box 734
Traverse City, Michigan

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Nelson:

It is my pleasant duty to inform you that your son's ship, USS HENRY L STIMSON (SSBN655), has been placed in commission in the United States Navy. As his new Commanding Officer I would like to take this opportunity to say hello and to forward some information on STIMSON. To acquaint you with our fine ship I am enclosing a picture of the ship and our commissioning brochure. I hope that you will find them of interest.

The Gold Crew, of which your son is a member, will shortly leave on their first short shakedown. After that we will have a two month off-crew period while the Blue Crew has their shakedown. We will then have the second portion of our shakedown, returning to New London just before Christmas.

Your son has worked long and hard to make STIMSON a fine ship. I appreciate his efforts and feel privileged to have such fine examples of American youth under my command. Be assured that I am deeply interested in your son's professional development, morale, spiritual well being, and moral welfare. If there is any further information or assistance that I can furnish you, or if problems regarding your son arise, please communicate with me at your convenience.

Sincerely,



R. H. WEEKS
Commander, U. S. Navy
Commanding Officer (Gold)

HISTORY OF ASSIGNMENTS

LEGEND: THE FOLLOWING ABBREVIATIONS WILL BE USED IN GAIN ENTRY AND LOSS ENTRY COLUMNS.

GAINS:

- DNL - DNLTD
- REGN - RECALATED
- LATER - DEFERRED ENLISTMENT
- RECAEDU - RECALLED TO ACTIVE DUTY
- RECDAT - RECEIVED FOR DUTY
- RECTAD - RECEIVED FOR TAG
- RECTS - RECEIVED FOR TEMPORARY DUTY
- RECTADLINE - RECEIVED FOR TEMPORARY DUTY UNDER INSTRUCTION
- RECDLINE - RECEIVED FOR DUTY UNDER INSTRUCTION

- RECTADLINE - RECEIVED FOR TEMPORARY ADDITIONAL DUTY UNDER INSTRUCTION
- RECTREAT - RECEIVED FOR TREATMENT
- RECCFD - RECEIVED IN CONNECTION WITH FITTING OUT

LOSSES:

- RELACDN - RELEASED FROM ACTIVE DUTY
- DISCH - DISCHARGED
- TRN - TRANSFERRED

1. TYPE AND DATE OF GAIN ENTRY	2. ACTIVITY	3. DUTIES	4. TYPE AND DATE OF LOSS ENTRY	5. INITIALS
JAN 06 1966	U.S. NAVY RECRUITING STATION, DETROIT, MICHIGAN	PROCESSING	JAN 06 1966	JFH
06 JAN 1966	UNTO, GREAT LAKES, ILL.	PROCESSING	3 MAR 1966	T.R.H. JFH
19 MAR 1966	USN SEAMAN TRA NEW LONDON, BRITA, CONN	STUDENT PSUB 056 SA(BU)	20 MAY 66	W.P.
RECOMMUNDS 3 JUN 66	HENRY L STINSON (SSRN655)		20 AUG 66	
RECDUT	PRECOMMUNIT	Of rate SA	TRAN	BEC
20 AUG 66	USS HENRY L STINSON (SSRN655) (DOLD)	Of rate SA	9 DEC 68	W.P.
RECDUT	SEA TOUR COMMENCED AUG 66		TRAN	
9 DEC 68	USS G. C. MARSHALL (SSRN654)		4 DEC 69	
RECDUT	(BLAKE) (LANT-NLON)	Of Rate STS(SS) 120888	TRAN	TRF
RECFD			RELACDU	
05 DEC 69	NAVSUBASE, NLON, CONN.	OF RATE STS3(SS)	19 DEC 69	

Name (Last, First, Middle)

NELSON, DONALD DEWIS

SERVICE NO.

9157120

UNITED STATES NAVY

Honorably Discharged



from the Armed Forces of the United States of America

This is to certify

that DONALD OTTIS NELSON 366-44-4179/9157120 5T53 USNR

was Honorably Discharged from the

United States Navy

on the 8TH *day of* SEPTEMBER 1971 *This certificate is awarded*
as a testimonial of Honest and Faithful Service

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. J. Stanowski".

R. J. STANOWSKI, CAPTAIN, USNR
Commanding Officer
Naval Reserve Manpower Center

